

REMARKS

The present Amendment is filed in response to the Notice of Drawing Inconsistency with Specification mailed September 3, 2004. The Notice acknowledges receipt of selected drawings of the present application, as amended by Applicant in connection with its Amendment and Response to First Office Action, filed on May 3, 2004, (the “May 3rd Amendment”). The Notice notes, however, that an inconsistency exists between the drawings and the Brief Description of the Drawings section of the present application in that Figures 1, 2, 3, 3A, and 8 are listed in the Brief Description, but are not contained in the drawings.

In response, Applicant notes that only selected drawings were amended via the May 3rd Amendment to correct various informalities indicated in the First Office Action, mailed December 3, 2003 (the “Office Action”). The Office Action (and accompanying PTO Form-948) indicated that various views associated with originally filed Figures 4 and 6 were not separately labeled.

In response to the Office Action, Applicant amended the drawings via the May 3rd Amendment to separately designate Figures 4A, 4B, and 6A from Figures 4 and 6, respectively. As only Figures 4 and 6 were affected by this amendment, the drawing sheets containing only those figures were included and attached to the May 3rd Amendment. Applicant therefore submits that unamended Figures 1, 2, 3, 3A, 5, 7, and 8, while not modified via the May 3rd Amendment, still form part of the pending application, together with amended Figures 4, 4A, 4B, 6, and 6A. Continuing inclusion of each of the Figures 1-8 as part of the present application is therefore respectfully requested.

By the present Amendment, Applicant has further amended the Brief Description of Drawings portion of the specification to include a reference to each of the newly designated

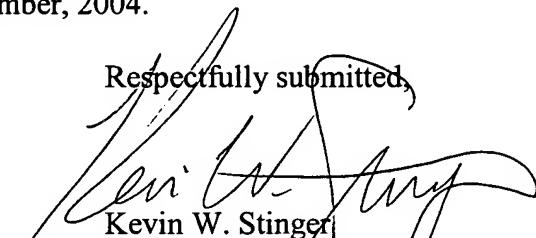
Figures 4A, 4B, and 6A. Waiver of the requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 regarding amendments after allowance pursuant MPEP § 714.16(d)III, together with entry of these amendments, is therefore respectfully requested. For the Examiner's convenience, six drawing sheets comprising a complete set of Figures 1-8 as currently pending as of entry of the May 3rd Amendment are also attached herewith.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant submits that the issues surrounding the Notice of Drawing Inconsistency With Specification have been resolved by the above remarks. As such, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the Notice as an impediment to issuance of the patent in this case. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to issuance that can be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 26th day of September, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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